Nixon Budget Knife Draws Angry Retort

by Joelle Dominski
Modern Times Staff

Confusion, apprehension, and the beginning of a search for other funds are the watchwords in many offices and programs that are currently getting their money from the Office of Economic Opportunity and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The first city to receive OEO funds 10 years ago is now preparing for the impending cut off of funds this summer, as outlined in President Nixon's proposed budget.

This area on Legion Avenue near Asylum Street which has long been boarded up may become the typical scene in many more New Haven neighborhoods. Nixon's budgets call for dropping the federal Office of Economic Opportunity completely; the outlook he proposes for other projects that directly affect poor people is no better.
(M-T photo by Nick Heyer)

In New Haven, between 35 and 40 thousand people are served by programs that are funded by OEO and the Department of Community Affairs, according to Rev. Edwin Edmonds, Chairman of the Board of Community Progress, Inc. CPI is the local agency which distributes these funds, totaling $5.3 million, of which $1.5 million comes from OEO.

Those slated to lose their funds include the eight Neighborhood Corporations and the fund coordinating offices as well as various job-training, youth, health, childcare, senior citizens and legal aid programs. Rev. Edmonds referred to the cuts as deplorable and emphasized the need to "flood the White House and Congress with protests."

"When people are accomodated to a service and then it is withdrawn, it creates a scarcity," he said, using the example of summer programs for youth. These give something constructive to youth. To withdraw the programs and throw these young people into the street without resources and income invites trouble. The ordinary citizen has a big stake in this," said Rev. Edmonds.

Coalition For Human Survival

In reaction to the prospect of these social service cutbacks and Nixon's total budget, over 20 New Haven groups have formed a Coalition for Human Survival. Their first action was to send a representative delegation to Washington on February 20 to lobby Reps. Weickerand Ribicoff and Congressman Giaimo and participate in the National Mobilization for Domestic Unity. The coalition now plans to develop an organized approach to the budget as it affects the state and city situation.

The coalition includes a broad range of groups from the Senior Citizens and Sage Advocate Program to the Black Student Union, Welfare MOMs, and Urban League, to the Black Coalition, the Coalition for Peace and Justice, the Communist Party and the Black Panther Party.

In another action of concern, many New Haven ministers have requested of Mayor Guida that the community be consulted when funding attempts are being made. However, when they marched to the Mayor's office one morning last week, he declined to meet with them.

Rev. Edmonds expressed concern that Nixon's use of funds already appropriated by Congress is what the President would like to be one more step in the "reign of King Richard the First."

In response to general criticisms of CPI, Rev. Edmonds said, "Sure, there are problems with the programs. They are experimental. But the important thing is that they have been improving. Many mistakes have been eliminated."

Once current funds are cut off, probably around December 31, Rev. Edmonds hopes that funds will be attainable from DCA through the state Human Resources and Development Fund.

Model Cities Cut

Tom Picton, Public Information Officer of Model Cities, explains that his program will also be looking for alternate funding sources. Because of Nixon's drastic cuts in HUD's budget, they will no longer be able to fund Model Cities . A dozen education programs including the 10 school councils, Seek Out for High School seniors and an Afro-American program at Lee High are

See City Residents, Page 3

MODERN TIMES 10¢

"What you do is news!" Call 562-2510

New Haven

March 1—14, 1973 Vol. 111, No. 20

Parents Of Drug Addicts Organize For Mutual Aid

Modern Times Staff

"Here we have a group of people who are being wiped out financially, emotionally, and every other way and no agency, federal, state, or local al, has set up any programs to help them. But we are going to change that in New Haven by organizing ourselves, with the assistance of a private organization. *I am talking about the parents of kids hooked on drugs.*"

This statement comes from a father of a heroin addict who is helping to create an organization for these parents, where they can discuss their problems and help each other. The initial meetings are being sponsored by The Center for the Person in Transition, and the first meeting will be held on Thursday, March 22nd, at 8 P.M. at 26 Trumbull Street.

Since this is the first group of this type in the State, the Center has no blueprint for its operation. It is their hope that the parents will take over and run it as soon as possible. There are no 'experts' in this field: the victims - the parents involved. are the only people who know the problem and who can be of help to others in the same predicament.

"When your child is on dope, whatever kind, there is very little a parent can do, and there is no one he or she can talk to who can be of any practical assistance. Of course one can go to the family physician, or a clergyman, or a drug counselor, but they don't come up with much. The pity of it is, though, that almost all of us keep it a deep dark secret. We even try to keep it from other members of the family. We feel it's a reflection on us, something shameful. The fact is that we have a sick child on our hands and we have to approach it that way."

Parents Come Out of the Closet

"Not too many years ago, people hid their retarded children, and pulled all sorts of cover-ups when a member of the family had a mental illness. We have gotten over that, and most people don't attach a stigma to mental illness. And the same with alcoholism. People generally recognize that it is an illness."

"So, one of the first things this group will have to overcome is the secretiveness. We have to create an atmosphere, among our-

See Drug Abuse, Page 6

WHAT'S INSIDE

Many, many of us in and around the New Haven area have not been silent in our outrage with the Vietnam War and over the years have been again and again working against it. Pictured above are some of the participants of a 1971 anti-war rally on the Green. For a continued look at the anti-war effort in New Haven, please turn to page 5. (Photo by Alan Kay)

S.C.S.C. News page 2

Yale New Haven Hospital page 3

World Affairs page 6

National Women's Caucus Backs Farah Strike

Posing with a sign calling for support of Farah strikers are, left to right, an unidentified delegate , Ruth Myers of the N.Y. Women's Political Caucus, Congresswoman Bella Abzug of Manhattan, Judy Lerner of the Westchester Women Strike for Peace, Lee Novick of New Haven from the Connecticut Women's Political Caucus and Mildred Jeffries of the Michigan Democratic National Committee of Women.

The first national political convention of women in over 100 years took place in Houston, Texas, on February 9-11. The National Women's Political Caucus meeting of over 2000 delegates from 50 states and the territories , went out as a body to picket Foley's department store in downtown Houston to support the strike against Farah pants.

Connecticut delegates Donna Brunstad of Redding and Lee Novick of New Haven joined the picket line, which circled a complete block and included Congresswoman Bella Abzug and other women elected officials. (See photo)

Speaking about the thousands of women employed at Farah, one demonstrator said, "Farah has been trying to intimidate these young women because they are Spanish-speaking, female and young. The management has assumed that because they are members of three powerless groups they can be exploited more easily. I've seen these women in action, and they stand up for their rights."

Legislative Agenda

The Conference adopted a legislative agenda for the coming year which included passage of the Equal Rights Amendment as a top priority in states like Connecticut which have not as yet ratified it. The body also elected new officers.

The Connecticut Women's Political Caucus recently formed a lobbying effort at the State Capitol during the legislative session to insure passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and other legislation of concern to women.

On Wednesday, February 14, hundreds of witnesses from women's groups of all kinds and representatives from the United Auto Workers and the Teachers Union testified in support of ratification of the Equal Rights amendment at hearings held in the Capitol.

Commission Hearings

The Caucus also testified this week before the Human Rights and Opportunities Commission regarding discrimination in employment credit and public accommodations, and in favor of paid maternity and paternity leaves for new parents.

The Caucus is urging the Legislature to set up a State Commission on the Status of Women which would have subpoena and investigatory powers. At present individuals have to bring complaints against companies or others accused of discrimination. This process which requires money, time and legal expertise is especially difficult for working women.

College Politics Alive And Well At S.C.S.C.

by Chris Doob

Southern Connecticut State College

These days life at Southern Connecticut State College seems to reflect the behavior and attitudes that exist throughout much of our society. I teach sociology at Southern, and both in the classroom and out I see immense apathy, a reluctance to think and act independently. But there are a few people who remain active. Here is a round-up of the political groups on campus.

Recently students formed the Student Union. It grew out of several ad hoc committees, one formed last spring to run an all-day program commemorating the second anniversary of the Kent State killings and the other established this past fall to contribute to the effort to fight the welfare flat grant.

There are many interests and directions for political work in the group, and some concrete actions have been taken already. Early this winter there was a memorial service for the students killed at Southern University, and in the past few weeks members of the group have been gathering signatures to keep the library open on week ends.

Library Petitions

Funds from the legislature for the state colleges are being cut back, and corners must be cut everywhere, but excessive hardship would be caused, especially at exam time, if the library were closed on week ends. So S.A.U. members set up tables at prominent points on campus and gathered over 2,000 signatures from students and faculty, and they plan to present these to the president of the college.

This group meets weekly. It has a membership of over 30 students and a steering committee that meets independently to plan general directions for the group and the agenda for the meetings.

The Southern Connecticut Faculty Federation has existed for over three years, but it was only this fall that the membership began to build. From nine members last spring it has expanded to 110, as faculty have come together because of no incremental raises and the threat of job loss. The members meet regularly and are planning to increase the size of the union and to involve the members more fully in its activities.

Informal Discussion

Another recent activity emerged out of a conversation several faculty members had at lunch one day. They decided to meet regularly, and at each meeting one of their members would discuss some of his or her own work. This would be an unusual structure, one allowing the faculty the easy and productive exchange of ideas.

Recently there was a stimulating discussion revolving around an anthropologist's analysis of the fitness of primitive versus modern culture for survival in the present world.

There are other efforts- a women's caucus, a Nader-sponsored research group called PIRG. A few of us are trying to bring political consciousness into the classroom, choosing books for courses and topics for lecture and discussion that involve the crisis issues of our society.

Community Notes

THE CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF

Devaluation of the Dollar

Why it happened. What it means. What more lies ahead.

RICHARD C. WOLFF

American Independent Movement

Professor of Economics, City University, New York

Thursday, March 15, 1973 8:00 P.M.

United Church Parish House

323 Temple Street, Corner of Wall

A free public information forum sponsored by **MODERN TIMES**

A NEW LIBRARY BUDGET

New Haven Library Board's Fiscal 1974 budget is asking a 5.6% increase over last year. This includes: $5,000 for salaries, $17,000 for building improvement and $69,000 for new books.

Last year New Haven purchased 3,000 new books, while a much smaller city ,Stamford,purchased 8,000 new books. The budget was presented Monday, Feb. 26th to the New Haven Board of Finance.

N.O.W. IN NEW HAVEN

N.O.W. (National Organization for Women) has a chapter in the New Haven area now.

N.O.W. is a civil rights group committed to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now.

The local officers are: President, Margaret G. Fine; Vice-President Ann Glasser ; Secretary, Beverly Stern; Treasurer, Joan Steffans.

If you have any questions or wish further information, call Mary Cohart 776-6788.

STATE REP. AT N.H. WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS MEETING

On March 11 at 7:30, State Representative Ruth Clark will speak at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 608 Whitney Ave. on proposed legislation to advance the rights and freedoms of women. This meeting is sponsored by the Greater New Haven Women's Political Caucus.

Foremost among the bills before the State legislature is one to create a State Commission on the status of women. Connecticut is one of only three states which does not have such a commission. Other bills before committee would prohibit sex discrimination in credit transactions, public accomodations, management, professional and technical positions and education at the secondary level.

The meeting is open to any interested woman of any age, either political party or unaffiliated Interested women may also enroll with the Caucus at the meeting. Membership requires only a declaration of interest and entitles a person to participation, as well as to receive mailings.

Angela Davis Bookstore MONTHLY FORUM

CLAUDE LIGHTFOOT

discusses his new book .

RACISM AND HUMAN SURVIVAL

Sunday, March 11, 1973 2:30 p.m.

Dixwell Q House **197 Dixwell Ave. New Haven, Ct.**

REFRESHMENTS ● BRING A FRIEND

$1.00

Any contribution accepted from students and unemployed

Commission Charges Bias At Yale-New Haven Hospital

by Ray Milici
Concerned Hospital Workers

The New Haven Commission on Equal Opportunities has recently made public a report investigating discrimination in employment by Yale-New Haven Hospital. Among other findings it states, "There is an observable social class structure with clear-cut lines based on education, length of service, and occupation... Doctors are the stars among those who labor at the hospital, as such, they demand their due."

The Black Coalition of New Haven made the original complaints against the hospital in June 1971. They charged 8 points of discrimination against blacks - from job placement to training programs to nursing school admissions. Two investigators were assigned to YNHH, but one resigned so the report was essentially the work of one person.

The Commission findings confirmed a general pattern of discrimination against both white and black non-professional workers at the hospital. Of the 3,350 employees, 71 percent are white, 27 percent black, and .6 percent Spanish-speaking. The majority of whites are in the professional , technical, and managerial job classifications. These have numerous professional associations - like the AMA - to represent their interests. The non-professional categories where the bulk of blacks are employed have no worker organizations.

The Yale-New Haven Concerned Hospital Workers, a group who have been attempting to form a union for several years, questions certain aspects of the investigation procedure - particularly the lack of worker input in the study.

They criticize the Commission for sending only one investigator. In addition a group member stated, "we feel that the investigator spent too much time interviewing the administrator, director, department heads, and supervisors, but not enough interviewing workers". The group suggests that meetings be called on hospital time to encourage workers with information on job discrimination to come forward. Meetings during work time have been held by the hospital to discourage union drives. Nevertheless no such meetings with the investigator took place.

The Concerned Hospital Workers strongly criticized a Commission suggestion that an employee association with departmental chapters be established. "An employee association can only serve as a front for the hospital administration and provide only an illusion of representation. Such an association would be a company union which is illegal according to the state labor law", said one worker.

The group feels that the investigation did bring to light some interesting facts. First was that Charles Womer, hospital director, refused to make public the salaries of the 60 highest administrators and medical specialists. *The Concerned Hospital Workers*

See DISCRIMINATION, page 7

Certainly Not The Solution

Our state government thinks that taxing gas to raise money for the buses is the way to meet the need of a public mass transit system. Ha! (MT photo by Nick Heyer)

City Residents Blast Cuts

continued from page 1

involved. Also affected will be the Legal Assistance Association, Hill Health Center, and various other senior and childcare programs in the Hill neighborhood.

"We get $1.8 million a year. This will be drastically cut. We'll see what Guida and Meskill can do," said Picton. He said the situation is "kind of depressing," and indicated that it has not yet been decided whether a few entire programs will be eliminated or if all the programs will be cut back a little.

Picton placed some faith in money coming through the Human Services Office, a city agency set up recently by Mayor Guida, and the special revenue sharing program. Rev. Edmonds was not so hopeful. "First, Nixon spoke of revenue sharing as a means of helping the human resources program. Actually there will be less money than before, with this system."

Diane Appel, Service Coordinator for Fair Haven-West Rock Family Planning called the cuts "a tragic thing to the community." She said that their program is completely funded by OEO, but there are hopes that it will be picked up by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. If not, the clinic will look into other possibilities.

But if no money is found it will mean the end of the opportunity for counselling, testing, and educational sessions about pregnancy for many women in Fair Haven, especially those who are Spanish-speaking.

The Fair Haven-West Rock Planning Clinic began one year ago, and meets two nights a week at the Christopher Columbus School. From eight to fifteen women attend each night. Yet, this service, like many that have been established across the city, is in danger of having to close.

Nest Issue: Visits to some other programs affected.

Labor Notes

PC STRIKE VICTORY FOR UNION, PUBLIC

The resolution by Congress to end the one-day strike by United Transportation Union (UTU) against the Penn Central (PC), and to halt the PC's rule change which provoked the strike, is considered a significant victory by UTU President Chesser--a victory for the Union and for the riders and shippers. The strike resulted when PC asserted the "unrestricted right" to cut, re-arrange, and combine crews of trains and switchers.

The resolution--passed in haste by Congress and signed at conspicuous leisure by Mr. Nixon--holds the line until May 9. Negotiations are to continue and in 45 days the Transportation Department is to present its recommendations for preserving rail service in the Northeast.

Chesser called the move by Congress a "boomerang" of PC's plans "to use the UTU as a vehicle to get before Congress, masking their financial ineptness as a labor problem.

Incidentally - - 1972 was the biggest year ever for rail freight traffic, and 1973 has started out even bigger.

At the same time the epidemic of railroads-in-bankruptcy is known to be spreading westward. *(Info from UTU News)*

PAY GAP WIDENS

The wage gap between men and women has gotten worse. According to a report given to the Interstate Conference of Employment Security Agencies the average woman worker today earns only 59% of what the average male worker earns. Fifteen years ago it was 64%. This shows that companies have been able to worsen the pay situation of women. Keeping women's pay scale low means, in the long run, lower wages for both men and women.

PROTEST "RIGHT TO STARVE STRIKERS"

You have until March 4th to register your protest over a proposed "right to starve strikers" regulation which is being considered now by the U.S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare.

HEW wants to cut any kind of welfare assistance or food stamps to striking workers and members of their families.

It is clearly a totalitarian move to starve strikers into submission. Workers pay taxes when they are employed--and these taxes are used to pay for public assistance and food stamps. Why should workers--when they go on strike--be denied?

Write your letters to Hon. John D. Twiname, Administrator, Social and Rehabilitation Service, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, 330 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D. C. 20201.

BOARD OF ED PLAYS WITH NUMBERS

The New Haven Board of Education's recent announcement of a new offer to teachers is as misleading to the public as their other releases. What the Board doesn't say is that teachers are entitled to about a 2.6% salary increase next year in *earned* increments. Teachers gain increments as a result of length of service, just as in other crafts (except that it takes teachers 12 years to reach maximum). So when the Board of Education says it is offering the teachers 3.5%, it really amounts to less than 1% for a two-year contract. Food prices went up 3% in January alone. The teachers have to eat like everyone else.

Those Who Run And Ruin

Editors Note: The Concerned Hospital Workers are trying to form a union at the Yale-New Haven Hospital. This is a background analysis of the men who run the hospital - the Board of Directors.

The charitable people who direct the Yale-New Haven Hospital represent an interesting "cross-section" of the community. Among them are several company presidents, bank directors, Yale big-wigs, and lawyers. Of the 24 members, two are black and three are women. Notably absent are any representatives from labor or from the hospital's patients. As individuals this group has a lot of influence in New Haven; as a group they direct the city's largest medical center with 800 workers, a medical staff of 1400 and beds for over 800 patients.

The new president of the Board of Directors, James H. Gilbert, is also president of C.W. Blakeslee and Sons which employs 800 workers and is a director of the First New Haven National Bank. He succeeds Charles H. Costello, Chairman of the board of C. Cowles and Company and member of the board of governors of the University of New Haven, who was president for the last six years.

Gaser Bows Out

The President of Southern Connecticut Gas Company, Richard H. Bowerman, also a First New Haven director, recently resigned his place on the hospital board to become president of the United Way. But the wife of the president of United Illuminating, Mrs. Angus N. Gordon, Jr., is still a director, as is U.I.'s vice-president for public relations and community affairs, John M.C. Betts.

Kingman Brewster is a member of the hospital board of course; but several other Yale figures keep him company. There is university treasurer, John E. Ecklund, and secretary, Henry Chauncy, Jr., as well as Brewster's special advisor Alfred B. Fitt, and former university provost Charles H. Taylor, Jr. Stanley Trotman, president of Mory's, is a vice-president of the Y-NHH Board.

Charles Woods, president of the New Haven Water Company, is a new member of the Board of Directors. He is also on the board of the University of New Haven, and the National Savings Bank. Leo F. Stanley, president of the New Haven Savings Bank, is another director.

Several lawyers are included - C. Newton Schneck, III., Milton P. Devane, John Q. Tilson, Jr., and William B. Ramsey (who also serves as corporation counsel to the city of New Haven.) The two black men are Henry Parker of the Southern New England Telephone Company, a former mayoral candidate, and Harry Jefferys, president of the Vanguard Fabricating Company in West Haven.

There is Robert Metcalf of Olin and Louis Goodwin of Eastern Steel and Metal Company... But you get the idea. These are men who know how to manage people and money. And that seems to be what counts at the Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Editorial — Poverty War: Defeat With Dishonor

Throughout the Vietnam war President Nixon kept repeating his pledge that under his presidency America would never lose a war. But in his latest budget message the President made plain he wants the United States to give up and surrender in a great and vital conflict, the War on Poverty.

Nixon proposes that most of the programs created in the '60's to help millions of Americans escape poverty be cut back or junked. His reasoning: The programs haven't worked. The poor are still poor.

Certainly poverty still haunts America. Government statistics show that in 1970 after five years of the War on Poverty, the percentage of Americans living in poverty dropped only 4%. More important, it's obvious poverty has deepened, that the poor are driven more and more to drug addiction, alchoholism, and crime. But the questions which need answering are ones Nixon refuses to face squarely. Why does such an enormously wealthy country like the U.S. have so much poverty? Why haven't anti-poverty programs wiped out poverty?

One big reason is that the much talked about War on Poverty was scarcely more than a skirmish. By a conservative estimate anti-poverty programs were to solve the economic problems of over 30 million people. How could the few billions of dollars actually spent each year in these programs possibly do such wonders? And how much of that money actually got down to the poor anyway? How much was grabbed by politicians along the way? How much was spent hiring large numbers of unnecessary administrators and professionals at outrageous salaries? How much was given to businessmen for job training programs where businessmen got free labor and workers got no training?

Yet there were even more fundamental problems with the War on Poverty. It's basic ideas about poverty were wrong. It believed that people were poor because they were disadvantaged, they didn't have enough education or job training. The mission of the anti-poverty programs was to help the poor start off on an equal footing with everybody else - "equal opportunity." Then poverty would disappear.

But that's dead wrong. The basic reason there's poverty in the U.S. today is because there aren't nearly enough good jobs to go around. There aren't enough jobs that pay better than poverty wages. Even if by some miracle everyone started off equally in the race for good jobs, millions of people would still have to end up losers. Poverty is built in-to our economy.

A real assault on poverty would start by guaranteeing every American a decent job at a decent wage. Make it law that all Americans get an honest day's wage for an honest day's work. There's certainly enough work that's crying out to be done. Think of all the housing and hospitals that are needed, the transportation that must be provided, the pollution that must be reduced.

Of course someone like Nixon wouldn't dream of anything like this. His friends couldn't get so rich if there weren't millions of Americans living on poverty wages. No, he would rather just eliminate any program to end poverty.

Right now the best thing Congress could do would be to defy Nixon and appropriate money to keep alive many of the anti-poverty programs. Even though these programs won't end poverty, some of them–like Headstart, Legal Assistance and some of the programs run by the Neighborhood Corporations–provide valuable daycare, legal and medical services that are of great help to poor people.

It's also important for Congress to contradict Nixon's scare talk about new taxes. Nixon's strategy is to divide poor workers from better paid workers by claiming that money for anti-poverty programs can only come out of those better paid workers' pockets. The best answer Congress can give to this falsehood is to close the loopholes the corporations use to evade paying taxes.

Then there will be more than enough money to keep the anti-poverty programs going.

Meskill Tax Plan Benefits Business

COMMISSION BUSINESS PUBLIC

Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

This is the second in a two-part series on the report of Connecticut Governor Meskill's Commission on Tax Reform.

Only half of all tax collections from Connecticut citizens–like sales, income, cigarette, gasoline taxes, etc.–are handled by the State. The other half is the property tax, handled directly by each city and town. This tax on land, houses, cars, business buildings and equipment (including inventories) alone accounts for over 80% of all funds available to local city or town governments. For most people, it is the biggest single tax bill each year, except for the federal income tax bill on April 15.

Meskill's "don't rock the boat" Tax Reform Commission decided that "fundamental changes" in the property tax system "were inappropriate." All they did was to come up with three minor changes to recommend. The first was to give persons over 65 a tax break. For families with income per year at or below $3,000, they could reduce their annual property tax bill by $500. If the over-65 family earned more than $3,000, they could take off less and less until they hit an annual income of over $7,500. At that point they could not take anything off the property tax bill. Average yearly family income in Connecticut is now around $12,000.

The second recommendation of the Commission was to reduce or eliminate several kinds of taxes on business equipment and inventories. The third recommendation was to continue with the special exemption from taxes which is granted to schools, universities, churches and other similar institutions. The Commission proposed that these institutions "should compensate the host towns for some of the services which they use." That is all.

Business Gets the Breaks

To be very blunt, but also very truthful, the Commission's proposals here boil down to only one sizeable reform: lower taxes on business. The Commission says so itself: "The tax is a major deterrent to business

See Business Benefits, page 7

Volume 111, Number 20
Circulation 4,000

MODERN TIMES welcomes all comments and letters to the editor.

MODERN TIMES

Subscriptions. 148 Orange St., New Haven
Editorial Offices: 441 Chapel St., New Haven
562-2510

MODERN TIMES is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on MODERN TIMES is done by volunteers, both members and non-members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions of the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get that kind of news in commercial papers run for profit. There is no place else where the work and play of people who aren't rich is considered important enough to write about. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working women and men are told by them instead of by their bosses. There is no place else where hunger, bad housing and education, lack of health care and police harassment that people live with is told by them.

We live in the richest country in the world. But only a few people get to use most of this wealth for themselves. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. Then there would be no need to strike for a few more crumbs, waste our resources and labor on rockets and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need–not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the rich, powerful few who run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care and decent jobs.

STAFF: David Adams, Gary Benenson, Matt Borenstein, Ed Breuler, Jerry Cohen, Ellen Comisso, Vittorio Comisso, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, Art Fleischner, Paul Gill, Sam Goodwin, Stanley Heller, Liz Henderson, Nick Heyer, Eileen Hoffman, Peter Jackson, Lynne Karsten, Karl Lechow, Alice Mick, Ray Milici, Patti Miller, Laurie Nussdorfer, Jim Jordan, Renee Poirier, Peter O'Connell, Naomi Resnick, Ruth Resnick, Florrie Ricciuti, Bob Sherry, Henry Tamarin, Ross Thompson, Sergio Verillo, Rick Wolff, Karen Wolff Tony Della-Ventura, Rusty Foster

Write On

A BRILLIANT BOOK

To the Editors:

One of the most brilliant, important and insightful books has been shamefully ignored by the press.

The title of the book is "Generations"; the author is David Alman and the publisher is The Henry Regenery Company of Chicago.

May I suggest that it be reviewed in your excellent paper and read by everybody.

Sincerely,
Sidney Berliner

CRITIC CRITICIZES MT HEAD

To the Editors:

I would appreciate the opportunity to register public repudiation of the title "Capsule Commentaries on the Year's Crummiest" given to my film review in the February 15 issue of Modern Times. Readers unfamiliar with the fact that newspaper headlines are not written by the authors of articles would undoubtedly consider me schizophrenic since the mild tone of the review itself is considerably at variance with the harshly negative tone of the headline.

As the introductory paragraph of the review clearly stated, I was discussing "mediocre" films, not "the crummiest" films. In the English language, there is a radical distinction between "mediocre" and "the worst" or "the crummiest." "Mediocre" means of "middling quality," "the broad middle range of a spectrum." I mentioned the mixture of both good and bad points in most of the films reviewed and felt that readers would be interested in seeing them precisely because they were, as I wrote, "a mixed bag."

Readers interested in my list of the worst films of the year will find it in the January 15 review in Modern Times, labelled "The Bad." There is also in that issue a list of "The Good" films of 1972, my praise of the best. The February 15 review of "The Mediocre" was a logical follow-up of the January 15 review of "The Good" and "The Bad". That is, it was until "The Crummiest" headline got attached.

Sincerely,
P.J. O'Connell
New Haven, Conn.

Vietnam: The Once And Future War

by P.J. O'Connell

The open battlefield combat phase of the Vietnam war is supposed to have come to an end with the signing of the truce accord in Paris on January 27. Yet military clashes are still taking place, and immense and varied political struggles lie ahead. The war is over, still on, and yet to come. Vietnam remains a world powder keg.

In the closing months of 1972, Washington made massive shipments of military hardware to the regime of President Nguyen Van Thieu in Saigon. The Pentagon had, for example, previously planned to get 2,100 aircraft to Saigon by mid-1974, but it managed to complete this goal in the 10-week period following Henry Kissinger's "Peace is at hand" statement on October 26. So Saigon now has the third largest air force in the entire world.

In that same period, in anticipation of the withdrawal of the remaining 26,000 American troops, 10,000 "civilian advisers" employed by the U.S. government or corporations under contract to the Defense Department were dispatched to South Vietnam. The maneuverings of such military personnel in civilian clothing were a big factor in the start of the war in the late 1950s. In September 1972, the Office of Public Safety of the U.S. AID program began a crash program to increase the number of Thieu's police from 122,000 to 300,000 In addition, the U.S. promised Thieu $2.7 billion in military appropriations for 1973, while backing away from its obligation under the Paris accord "to contribute to healing the wounds of war and to postwar reconstruction in (North Vietnam) and throughout Indochina" by means of reparations and aid for the damage done by its intervention. It seems that the truce requirement reading"Foreign countries shall not impose any political tendency or personality on the South Vietnamese people" may only have been signed by the U.S. in order to violate it.

Moving the Boundaries

The Vietnam war has never been limited by Washington to Vietnam. U.S. bombings and attacks by CIA-controlled mercenaries continued in Laos for weeks after January 27 and still continue in Cambodia. 60,000 American troops and 600 planes are maintained at seven massive air bases in Thailand, and scores more thousands of troops are on ships and bases in the South China Sea, Guam, Taiwan, the Philippines, and Japan. As a corporal at Travis Air Force Base commented on the flow of U.S. military personnel to Asia, "They're sending out just as many as come back. They're all going to Thailand; they've just moved the boundaries of the war back."

The Paris accord calls for "genuinely free and democratic elections under international supervision" with "the question of the return of Vietnamese civilian personnel captured and detained in South Vietnam (to) be resolved by the two South Vietnamese parties.. within 90 days after the ceasefire comes into effect." It also contains the following provision: "The two South Vietnamese parties will.. ensure the democratic liberties of the people: personal freedom, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of meeting, freedom of organization, freedom of political activities, freedom of belief, freedom of movement, freedom of residence.

Backed up by his U.S.aide and advisers, President Thieu has continued his moves to make elections, return of prisoners, and democratic liberties dead letters in South Vietnam.

—In July 1972 arrests by his regime were being conducted at the rate of 14,000 a month. In one week alone last November, police made 7,200 raids against his political critics. Between 200,000 and 400,000 political prisoners are now in his jails. Since the ceasefire, he has ordered the arrest of thousands more. His prison system is supervised by members of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons and is built by American contractors paid by the Defense Department. Torture is common in these jails.

—He is reclassifying political prisoners as common criminals and using a law empowering him to imprison anyone "for a maximum period of two years, which is renewable." He will claim that such prisoners do not merit release under the truce agreement.

—50,000 civilians were killed by "Operation Phoenix" between August 1968 and mid-1971 at a cost to the U.S. of $732 million.

This joint CIA-Saigon program of assassinating Provisional Revolutionary Government ("Vietcong") political officials is still being directed despite the ceasefire by 650 U.S. personnel. In 1972 Saigon police, for their part, murdered 26,000 opponents of Thieu. He has now ordered his troops and police to "shoot anyone stirring up trouble among the population or inciting to rebellion and support of the Communists."

—He has forbidden: the distribution of "Communist" leaflets; public political activities by "pro-Communist or neutralist elements"; and "pro-Communist" demonstrations (under penalty of death). In the

See Vietnam, Page 7

A Long March Against The War

Students protest presence of Marine recruiter on Yale campus on May 11, 1972. (MT photo by Dave Vine)

by Liz Henderson
Modern Times Staff

This is the second of a two part series on the New Haven peace movement's long march against the War in Vietnam from 1965-1973.

"We insist that U.S. intervention in Vietnam was wrong from the beginning, that it is still wrong, and that the Vietnamese people have the right to territorial integrity, independence, and national unity.... A reasonable program for Vietnam might be:

1) Immediate withdrawal of all American troops and cessation of all aid to the Saigon puppet government

2) War damage reparations to Vietnam at least as great as our current annual expenditures on the war -- over $30 billion.

3) War crimes trials for those who have directed the war in Washington and Saigon, as well as the principle manufacturers and users of napalm, fragmentation bombs, gasses and defoliants.

4) Full pardon for all political prisoners, including draft resisters, military resisters, deserters, and others whose violation of the law is attributable to opposition to war."

(AIM Program for 1968)

1968

Many New Haveners worked on the Eugene McCarthy campaign which they saw as a way of bringing the anti-war message to a wider public than ever. McCarthy won the Democratic primary in New Haven. The issue of the war was again forced into the congressional campaign in the 3rd District by Bob Cook running as AIM's candidate.

1969

People completely filled the New Haven Green in the largest anti-war demonstration the city has known, the October Moratorium. For the first time local dignitaries - Mayor Lee, Kingman Brewster of Yale, Mayoral Candidate Bart Guida - publicly joined in the demand for immediate withdrawal of American troops from Vietnam. Day-long programs of teach-ins, films, and guerrilla theatre were held at the University of New Haven and Quinipiac College.

1970

Students from all the local high schools and colleges joined in the nationwide strike May 8 to protest the invasion of Cambodia and the shootings of students at Jackson State and Kent State. Instead of closing them down, the strikes opened up the schools for discussions of the war and social problems at home.

1971

The Vietnam Veterans Against the War declared Yale's Battell Chapel a symbolic sanctuary for those who opposed the Vietnam War. The veterans gave public testimony to attrocities they had witnessed while serving in Vietnam.

The mining of Haiphong Harbor set off several weeks of anti-war demonstrations -- including school teachers, women's groups, hospital workers and students. At a press conference on May 13, Mayor Guida and Democratic Town Committee Chairman Arthur Barbieri joined former mayor contenders Henry Parker and Vincent Sirabella and others in attacking the escalation of the war. This unusual group of leading citizens led a delegation to lobby in Washington, D.C. for legislation to cut off funds for the war.

1972

The Central Labor Council of Greater New Haven voted at the April 18 meeting to condemn the renewed bombings of North Vietnam. This was the first Central Labor Council in the country to make such a resolution.

Members of Local 35 of the Federation of University Employees at Yale stopped work for 5 minutes on April 21 as a gesture of protest. In a press statement Local 35 emphasized "the working people of the U.S. have suffered most because of this war. This brutal war has taken more of our sons and more of our hard-earned money through taxes and inflation than any other segment of society."

1973

Inauguration Day demonstrations..... to be continued, if necessary....

Bob Cook speaks with workers on their lunch break during his '68 campaign.

World Affairs

Dollar Sinks As Nixon Pulls Out Plug

by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

The US dollar bites the dust again, for the second time in 14 months. Nixon's Phase I and Phase II economics programs were supposed to solve our international economic problems, but they did not. This latest devaluation of the dollar by 10 percent will mean higher prices for consumers. That is for sure. There may be other results.

To devalue the dollar simply means that the US declares that from now on, the the dollar is worth fewer French francs, or German marks, or Japanese yen than it was worth before the devaluation. Now it will take more dollars than before to get one franc or one year. So a SONY radio that costs 10,000 yen will, after this latest devaluation, cost more dollars than before. In this way, everything that Americans buy from abroad will become more expensive for us. Our dollars are worth less.

What items will be more costly as a result of the devaluation? The answer depends on many factors, but we can at least be sure of some prices that will definitely go up. Oil and natural gas for running our home heating systems, businesses and cars will go up. So will imported cars, wines, canned hams, TV's, cassette recorders, etc.

With the rise in food prices already predicted by the Government, the devaluation promises that a whole new batch of goods will also go up. The cost of living in this country will therefore jump very dramatically this year. It will wipe out most of the small wage gains made by unions that were forced by Nixon's Phase I and II to stay below a 5.5% annual increase limit.

Won't Solve Mess

Nixon says that the devaluation will solve our international economic mess. That is what he said late in 1971 when he devalued the dollar the last time. This devaluation is no more likely to solve the problem than the last one.

The difficulty continues to be the oversupply of dollars in Europe and Japan. They have so many over there that they don't want to take any more. Dollars are worth less to them. If nothing was done to overcome the oversupply of dollars abroad, there might eventually be a situation where foreigners might simply not accept dollars at all. Then Americans could not buy goods from abroad: no oil, no chromium, etc. In the language of economics, international trade would face collapse. The risk of so damaging a possibility is what finally forced Nixon to do something.

But the devaluation is no solution. It just buys a little time - at the American consumers' expense - during which Nixon and big business will try to come up with a real solution.

EXPANSION AND SHRINKAGE

The way a devaluation buys time is by reversing the flow of dollars for at least a few months. Americans facing higher prices for imported items will, it is hoped, buy fewer of them and therefore fewer dollars will flow out of the US. At the same time, since foreigners find that their money can get more dollars than before, they will, it is hoped, be more interested in buying US goods priced in dollars, thus causing more dollars to flow into the US. Fewer dollars leaving plus more dollars arriving will, it is hoped, draw down the oversupply of dollars abroad. And that was the original problem.

Economic War Is On

Yet the trouble is that it will probably not work, at least not for very long if at all. The reason for this is the refusal of foreign businessmen to part with the profits they earn from selling to the American public. They want the dollar problem solved, but not at any expense in lower profits for them. So, to take our example from before, the SONY radio producer who sees the devaluation leading Americans to buy fewer radios will cancel the effect of the devaluation by lowering the prices of the radio.

A 10 percent devaluation plus a 10 percent cut in price for an imported item will end up cancelling each other out. So just as many radios will be sold - maybe even more - and little will have been accomplished in the way of slowing down the outflow of dollars. Meanwhile, the foreign businessmen will be striving to up their efficiency so that their cut in prices will not hurt their profits.

To sum it all up, an economic war is now raging among the big capitalist countries of the world: the US, Britain, Germany, France and Japan. That war is fast heating up as each government hustles to keep down the economic casualties inside its own borders. We must watch this war. It may end up doing us more damage than even Vietnam.

Bias Suspected In Rape Charge

Dwight Worker Gets Legal Defense

by Matthew Lofchie and
Laurie Nussdorfer
Modern Times Staff

The case of John Stanford- a black community worker charged with the rape of two white women on two separate occasions-evokes sexual and racial tensions which in turn hamper fair legal proceedings.

Stanford, who has been described as a "responsible, self-respecting black man working tirelessly for people with problems in his community", is employed by the Dwight Neighborhood Corporation as a staff worker concentrating on housing and welfare problems.

He has been charged with two counts of rape dating from June and August of last year. His case has aroused concern in the New Haven black community and a defense committee sponsored by community leaders and made up of relatives and co-workers has been active in his behalf.

Held Until Trial

Stanford, who is currently awaiting trial in the Whalley Avenue jail, was free on $5,000 bond for the June case when he was arrested on the August charge. In September the State's Attorney obtained Superior Court bench warrants for both cases which had the effect of increasing his bond to a total of $100,000.

Anna Aschenback, a co-worker at the Hill Neighborhood Corporation- where Stanford served as a board member, chairman of the Housing Task Force and member of the personnel committee- described him as "the kind of person who worked without stint...a very remarkable person. A self-educated man, he reached out for solutions in exciting, interesting ways. He was the kind of person who respected people for what they were. At meetings he didn't try to dominate but didn't compromise his principles either."

John Stanford

'Surge of Support'

"That was why there was such a surge of support for him right from the beginning," she went on. At the first of two bond reduction hearings, in October 1972, 15 fellow workers and members of the community "black and white, men and women, young and old" testified in his behalf.

Although Stanford's bail was finally reduced to $10,000 and the Defense Fund managed to post it early this month, he is still being held. Because he was on parole after a conviction several years ago, any arrest on criminal charges qualifies him for a parole violation. According to Stanford's attorney, John R. Williams, the only way he could be acquitted of the parole violation and released on bail is to prove his innocence on the criminal charges.

Procedural Challenge

While the senior parole officer of the New Haven district says that anyone accused of a parole violation is entitled to an immediate hearing (without an attorney, however) before the full board on that charge, Williams claims that this is not planned in Stanford's case. He intends, to challenge the procedure which is planned- a preliminary hearing scheduled for February 23 at which the Parole Department will decide whether they have the right to hold Stanford without bail based solely on last fall's bench warrants.

In addition to raising money and bringing together character witnesses, the Defense Committee has publicized information on Stanford and the case- particularly some of the issues which hinder a fair trial. Aschenbach stated, "We say nothing about guilt or innocence, that's up to a jury of his peers. We just want to make sure they are his peers."

She analyzed some of the problems in this and other cases like it. "Because of the unresolved conflicts between men and women about their relationship, people- men *and* women- get very upset about rape cases. The forces of status quo use the emotional environment created by such cases to manipulate people- it's another way they can divide and conquer."

There are also difficulties establishing proof- because in rape cases there are usually only two people present, there are no witnesses. and people are not always recognizable in the dark.

Jury Challenge Expected

Two moves the defense attorney is expected to employ are to challenge the jury array– to try to obtain an unprejudiced jury of peers– and to seek to allow evidence trom lie detector tests. Such evidence has not been permitted in Connecticut courts as yet, but is considered vital in cases such as these where there are no witnesses.

To donate money or time, contact the John Stanford Defense Fund and Defense Committee c/o Dwight Neighborhood Corporation, 150 Dwight Street, 787-5949.

Drug Abuse Is No Dark Secret

Continued from page 1

selves to start with, where we can frankly and openly discuss our children's drug usage. Time to come out of the closet! Otherwise, we sit at home, talking to *ourselves*, trying to talk to the child, and slowly end up in a nuthouse and bankrupt.

"Drug abuse crosses all class and color lines, it is found in the 'better' suburbs and in the inner city. Being rich and white is no guarantee of immunity from this sickness."

The group being formed is strictly limited to parents whose **children are drug users** marihuana, cocaine, heroin, ups and downs. It is not a drug educational program. You can get further information by calling the Center at 624-5715 during the day.

Brass Tacks Phase 3: A Gift To Business

by Mike Holodnak

Labor union contracts covering some five million workers will be up for negotiations this year. But, because high corporation profits, high prices, high military spending, and high government subsidies and grants to big corporations have decreased American wage earners' buying power, union members are angry and there are indications that they will not allow themselves to be further shackled to Nixon's unfair 5.5 percent guideline while corporation profits and prices continue to soar.

Nixon's Phase 3 is as big a fraud as were his Phase 1 and 2.

According to UAW President Leonard Woodcock, "In the last six months for which figures are available, productivity in American industry increased at a far-above-normal rate of 5.6 percent but the buying power of American hourly workers increased by only 2.2 percent."

UAW leaders pointed out that for the first nine months of 1972 Chrysler's profits rose 180.5 percent, Ford's 39.2 percent, and GM's 14.2 percent (GM was still recovering from the 1970 strike).

Delegates to UAW's special convention November 13, 1972 mandated;

". . .Hereafter to sign no contract that runs for a term of more than one year unless it includes provisions for reopening, with the right to strike, in the event any clause benefiting or protecting the workers is nullified, whether by government action or otherwise."

Because of rank-and-file pressure, it is expected that UAW negotiations for 775,000 members will center around compulsory overtime and early retirement plans.

"Regardless of what controls are imposed, labor must make it clear from the start that we will not accept token wage and benefit packages while the corporations reap fantastic profits as they did in 1972," said Peter Bommarito, President of the AFL-CIO United Rubber Workers, who is negotiating for some 70,000 workers whose contract expires in April.

Unions Demand More Than 5.5%

"We must have substantial wage and salary increases," said a coalition of 14 unions that will bargain for some 200,000 employees of General Electric and Westinghouse in May and June.

Eight unions representing most of the 525,000 railroad workers have set demands far above Tricky's 5.5percent guideline.

Other major labor bargaining this year includes 450,000 Teamsters, some 15,000 West Coast Longshoremen, some 100,000 members of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters Union, and about 500,000 International Ladies Garment Workers.

Many years of union struggle wiped out sweat shops that had killed, maimed and shortened the lives of millions of American workers. Ahead lay modern technology with its promise of a better life and more leisure for workers and their children.

But modern technology, coupled with COMPANY GREED and COMPANY PREROGATIVES, has dehumanized jobs and increased alcoholism, drug addiction, and violence; alienated workers against each other, increased psychiatric illnesses, suicides, delinquency, racial and male-female tensions heart attacks, ulcers and rheumatism.

And, because unjust company prerogatives still exist, speed-ups continue to increase while the deliberately created reserve army of millions of unemployed stand by to replace those who had dropped or quit in frustration.

How many millions of workers had gone into the labor market believing they were buying a beautiful dream only to find out too late that they had spent a lifetime paying for a nightmare?

Yet automation can be a beautiful fact of life when it is made to serve everyone instead of only the rich special interests.

These are the facts that must be taken into consideration by organized labor going into negotiations this year.

Race Discrimination At Yale Hospital

Continued from page 3

points out that YNHH "is a community hospital. Certainly the community has a right to know what portion of their medical bill is paid to top-level administrators."

Second, the hospital grievance procedure was criticized by the Commission report. "We cannot accede that it has as yet been developed into a sufficiently effective method to resolve problems of a complex nature for any employee regardless of racial identity." The Concerned Hospital Workers points out that the hospital's poor grievance procedure would remain poor until workers have their own representatives at hearings.

Report Criticizes Dietary Unit

A third area of interest in the report was the special analysis of the YNHH dietary Department. This section (which will have held a union election by the time this goes to press) was the scene of a union drive in 1971.

There are now 212 service workers in the department, a quarter of whom work half-time and get no benefits. This represents a cut-back of 75 jobs from the time the report was issued. The service workers are mostly black, the dietary professionals mostly white.

The report states "dissatisfaction....has rested on two major factors. The first is salary levels, which have been raised since the attempt at unionization. The second revolves around the preponderance of whites in supervisory positions." The Concerned Hospital Workers stated, "This is nothing....that we didn't already know. But it doesn't do any harm to have it revealed in a public investigatory report."

BUSINESS BENEFITS

continued from page 4

and industrial investment in the State." And so, the Commission is going after it.

What about all the criticisms of Connecticut (and other States') property tax? The Commission says almost nothing about it, except to conclude that no changes are "appropriate." But let us go over those criticisms to see how outrageously and pro-business and anti-working people this Commission really is.

First, the property tax is regressive: it taxes everyone at the same rate, no matter how rich or poor. No effort is made to take account of a person's ability to pay. So the rich get away with paying a far lower share of their income and wealth in property taxes than the poor. The Commission does not even have the decency to mention the idea that property taxes be made progressive, like the federal income tax: the bigger the house, the higher the property tax (mill rate).

The Commission uses thousands of words to describe the sad plight of business in Connecticut which has to pay so many taxes. If we want to keep business and attract more, we have to give business tax relief - says this Commission. No mention is made of what happens when you give tax relief to businesses instead of to working people.

We Get Broken

With high property taxes, people will try harder and harder to escape them. Some will hold on to old, unsafe cars instead of buying newer ones to save the tax bill, which is higher on the newer model. Others will build unsafe additions to their homes without getting a building permit so that the city will not know and tax them on the addition. Still other people will just not move into the State because of the high taxes. And if people do not move in, then businesses may also not move in because there won't be enough of the right kind of people for these businesses to hire.

Dying Cities

But the worst result of lowering taxes on businesses these days when property taxes on private homes, apartments and cars are already so high, is what this will do to our nearly desperate cities. When business pays fewer taxes, while desperate working class taxpayers just can not pay more, the cities will be forced to spend less on public services.

The quality of education goes down as teachers are underpaid, class sizes grow beyond the power of the teacher to teach. When there's not enough money for public services. People die in car accidents on icy streets because the city has no money for proper sanding. The fire truck gets to your house 10 minutes too late because the city could not afford the most efficient latest alarm system. And so on.

Unfair Commission, Unfair Governor

Governor Meskill's Commission on Tax Reform has presented a totally irresponsible Report that proposes to save the profits of businesses at the expense of the lives of Connecticut residents. It is awhitewash of an unfair taxation system whose real purpose is to leave things just as they have been been with just a few little changes to help business profits even more.

You can tell something about a Governor by the Commissions he picks and listens to.

Vietnam Remains A Powder Keg

Continued from page 5

fall one-third of all the newspapers left in South Vietnam were closed for writing articles considered "harmful to the national interest."

–He has made it illegal for refugees in camps within cities to return to their homes in the countryside, where he has no control. Those caught attempting to return can be shot.

–He has required families in some provinces to be photographed as a unit, with the photographs kept by his government. Presence of extra persons or absences of any persons can be taken as proof of unlawful activity. In some areas, a color-coding system is being used, with each family designated by degree of loyalty to the government.

–He has harassed and restricted the contacts and activities of truce-keeping forces and placed severe restrictions on American and other foreign newsmen.

–He has ordered 16,500 Rural Development program (a CIA operation) officers to "administer" villages in all areas under Saigon control.

–He has ordered 300,000 Saigon officials (most of them military and police) to go into villages as "information cadres" to "counteract Communist propaganda." This program will be conducted by his "National Political Warfare Committee", chaired by his nephew.

–He is attempting to limit the concept of the elections to simply a vote for President. The Provisional Revolutionary Government, on the other hand, wants broad elections for a constituent assembly to draft a new constitution and decide what the administration of the united Vietnam called for by the Paris accord would be like. In the past Thieu has used his power notoriously to rig elections. His opponents in these past elections are still in jail.

How, then, can a truce last under such attacks as these? Dictator Thieu is a little match boy whose dangerous games will explode the powderkeg of war once more. And the matchmaker for him is Richard Nixon, the world's greatest arsonist.

Next Issue: What to Do About Thieu?

Helen Snow Recalls Travels In People's China

by P. J. O'Connell

Imagine living at Valley Forge and interviewing Washington and the other leaders of the American Revolution. A New Haven area resident, Helen Foster Snow, did the equivalent of this for twentieth-century Asia when she made her way to Yenan, China, in 1937 and became friends with Mao Tse-Tung, Chou En-Lai, and other Chinese communist leaders.

In 1937 the revolutionary armies had just completed their epic Long March in which they had fought their way 7000 miles across China into the distant Yenan region, where they regrouped their forces. From Yenan they were to go forth to do battle with the Japanese invaders and later with Chiang Kai-Shek's troops until 1949, when they liberated their vast country and began to bring it into the modern world.

A pleasant, vigorous woman who now lives in Madison, Ms. Snow told me how she had gone to China in 1931 with a U.S. foreigh service job. In Shanghai she met and in 1932 in Japan married journalist Edgar Snow. Ms. Snow described her life in Shanghai, Yenching, University, Peking, and Sian.

"Foreigners had special privileges in China in those days because foreign interests were so powerful. They lived a fashionable life, though the country was rent and destroyed by civil war and poverty.

It was a mess from one end to the other. Chiang Kai-shek was inclined to use his troops against his communist opponents rather than against the Japanese invaders. He never was much of a patriot, just a liasion between the rural landlords and the city compradore class. He was their kingpin, stubborn, obsessed with many old Confucian ideas and anti-communism. He had no humanity. Only the communists has a program dealing with the poverty of *the people of China; however, the U.S.* supported Chiang Kai-shek."

Helen Foster Snow with General Hsu Hai-tung at Yenan China, in 1937. General Hsu acheived almost legendary status for his services to the revolutuonary movement in China.

(Photos courtesy of Helen Foster Snow)

Barriers

Ms. Snow came to feel that "imperialism, a class question, not a race question" was a very retrogressive force in the world, especially that of the Japanese which directly threatened China in the 1930's. She became friends with students at Yenching University who were concerned that Chiang's China might become a fascist dictatorship. People in the cities didn't know much about the communists, who were mainly active with peasants. Sceptical of Chiang's anti-communist propaganda, the Snows decided to learn about the rebels first hand. "We were non-Communists but we didn't want to be told lies. We wanted the truth, even though it was dangerous to search for it. Having anything to do with the communists was a capital offense for the Chinese, but not for foreigners, as we were not under Chinese law. Thus we were able to travel and report back on our findings at a time when it was not possible for Chinese journalists."

In pursuit of truth, the Snows, moving *separately, sought out Mao's forces deep in the interior. The Snows "discovered"* the Long March and presented accurate *information about it to the outside world* for the first time in the famous *Red Star Over China* (by Edgar) and *Inside Red China* and *Red Dust* (by Helen). Their reporting remains one of the great scoops of journalistic history. Assisting Edgar Snow as interpreter was Huang Hua, a Yenching student who is now head of the Chinese delegation to the United Nations.

Ms. Snow's trip to Yenan involved considerable daring-do. At Sian she was placed under watch by Chiang's gendarmes. She got away by leaping out a window at midnight and made her way to Yenan in the car of a local general, assisted by the son of one of the chief missionaries in China.

Red Boy Scouts

Ms. Snow's eyes light up as she remembers her months in Yenan. "It was like a boy scout camp or a YWCA camp in some ways. People were puritanical but charming heroes and heroines. They were going to classes all the time, and there was a lot of studying, drama, and playing ping-pong. There was a youth mystique and a non-money economy. The Long March and Yenan moulded the unity of the revolution.

"I used to wonder why nobody wrote down the life story of George Washington when he was available at Valley Forge, so I decided to get the Chinese to tell me their stories in the midst of their revolution.

"Mao was a tall and casual man of peasant origin. He was charming, witty, open-minded, a brilliant man who did his own thinking. He was the epitome of Emersonian self-reliance. He was charismatic, but everybody at Yenan was charismatic.

"Chou En-lai was an executive type, and also good at mobilizing people. He was a natural diplomat and seemed to me to be a superior kind of human being.

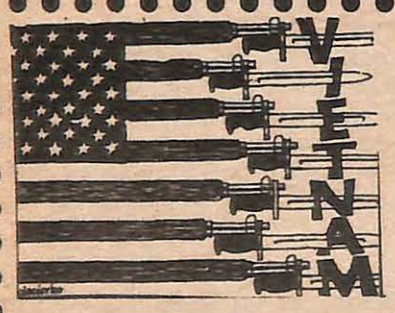
Women in China

Ms. Snow also became closely acquainted with Madame Sun Yat-sen, now vice-chairman of the People's Republic of China, and other leading Chinese women. Speaking of women's liberation in China, she said: "You can't be too revolutionary for me in China, China needed to be turned upside down and inside out. Maoism is basically the liberation of women and children from child slavery under Confucian patriarchialism. That is why women and children waved the little red books as their totem. If Mao did not exist, he would have had to be invented."

After leaving Yenan, Ms. Snow became active in the "gung ho" movement. "Gung ho" is the Chinese term for cooperative, meaning "work together." In the "gung ho" movement, she raised funds for industrial cooperatives in the country to put refugees from the cities, under attack by the Japanese, to work. Labor hours were used instead of capital in those co-ops. The "gung ho" movement helped spread industries all over the countryside. The co-ops were later merged by the communists into communes. It is from these co-ops that the term "gung ho" later entered the English language by way of Evans F. Carlson of Carlson's Raiders in World War II.

"Socialism in China removes what used to be called 'the yellow peril,' meaning the danger that the immense mass of Chinese would be utilized to destroy Western standards in one way or another. We should try to come to terms with Communist China in every possible way, and American labor should be taking the leadership instead of sitting back and wondering what is going on."

In 1941 the Snows (later divorced) returned to the United States and settled in the Madison countryside. Ms. Snow continues to write on China, particularly on women's emancipation, and to be involved in many and varied activities. As Ms. Snow said goodbye after our afternoon of conversation, I noticed a historical marker on her modest house, indicating that it had been built at the time of the American Revolution. My mind was filled with the experiences Helen Foster Snow had recreated for me as I drove back at sunset into the reddening western sky.



READ WHAT IT'S REALLY ALL ABOUT

Subscribe To
MODERN TIMES

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

$3.50 per year(!) $15.00 Sponsoring
(includes mailing costs)

MODERN TIMES
441 Chapel Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06511

Bulk Rate
US Postage
PAID
4.8 ¢
New Haven, Conn.
Permit No. 89

Hsu Meng-ch'iu, historian of the Long March, who lost his legs during that lengthy struggle. This photo, taken by Helen Foster Snow in 1937, is one of the famous ones in her vast collection of photos about China.

Classified

ARTISTS CRAFTSMEN

Creative arts display service is now accepting arts and crafts to be displayed in New Haven area homes, offices, businesses, and restaurants on a monthly basis. For further information and appointment call JoLynn Banner, 481-3216.